

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his courtesy in extending a telephonic interview to the undersigned on September 26, 2007. An amendment to claim 15 was discussed which was intended to point out that the claimed method was for the use of a particular optical glass formulation as a lens in an i-line stepper. The Examiner mentioned that depending on the amended claim language, a restriction requirement might be issued. No agreement was reached and the undersigned indicated that the claim language would be reconsidered and an amendment would be filed.

Claims 9-14 have been allowed and claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Otsuka et al. (Otsuka).

Reconsideration is requested.

The Otsuka patent discloses a fluorophosphate optical glass having a low dispersion which would be useful as a lens for a camera. At page 1, lines 5-19 of the present specification, a detailed disclosure was made of the problems that are involved with providing a glass lens for an i-line stepper. These problems arise from the fact that the i-line stepper utilizes near ultraviolet rays for exposing and copying a fine pattern of an integrated circuit on a silicon wafer using a lens of about 200mm or larger. The exposure to ultraviolet radiation makes some glasses unsuitable for use in this device because it can cause glasses to deteriorate.

Amended Claim 15 points out a method of providing an optical glass for lenses of an optical system of an i-line stepper which comprises providing in said i-line stepper an optical glass made according to the composition that is precisely defined in claim 15 by reference to the mass% of the recited components. Since 35 U.S.C. § 100 defines a new use of a composition as a process, it is necessary to claim a new use using process language. Claim 15 defines a process of providing a lens for an optical stepper. Since optical steppers are not even mentioned by Otsuka, it is not seen how Otsuka can be construed as anticipating or making obvious the method of claim 15. For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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